

WISHA Interim Interpretive Memorandum
Washington Department of Labor and Industries
#98-1-K
RENTAL CRANES AND MARITIME CRANE CERTIFICATION

Approved: Michael Wood, Senior Program Manager
WISHA Policy & Technical Services

Date Issued: January 6, 1998

Background

WAC 296-56-60093 requires certification of cranes and other material handling devices used by employers subject to Chapter 296-56 WAC (Longshore, Stevedore, and Related Waterfront Operations). WAC 296-304-200 includes a similar requirement regarding shipbuilding and certain related activities.

Because some rental operations provide cranes to employers covered by these maritime standards *and* to employers engaged in other operations such as logging, construction, and general industry, the question of whether it is appropriate to certify such rental cranes has been raised. This memorandum, which will remain in effect until more formal guidance has been issued, provides guidance to WISHA consultation and compliance staff (as well as to maritime crane certifiers) regarding the extent of maritime certification and the nature of employer obligations related to rental cranes.

Policy

1. The maritime certification staff will process only those crane inspection worksheets that have been specifically (and appropriately) designated as "maritime." Some examples of cranes for whom worksheets will not be accepted include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Cranes not used by employers subject to Chapter 296-56 WAC or Chapter 296-304 WAC (cranes used in environments other than a "marine terminal" or a "shipyard").
 - Cranes that are not being used within WISHA jurisdiction.
 - Mobile personnel hoists.
 - Rental company fleet cranes.
2. Requests for specific, special circumstance reviews of equipment (including rental equipment) will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
3. Because crane certification is specific to the particular nature of an employer's use of the crane, crane rental companies will *not* be issued maritime certificates for cranes in their rental fleet outside the context of a specific maritime use. A "maritime employer" who rents a crane is responsible for ensuring compliance with the crane certification requirements of the applicable standard and must not simply rely upon a previous certification.